



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas



Hubble helpers

The STS-82 crew captures its Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission in pictures. Photos on Page 3.



Long goodbye

Public Affairs' Photographer Andrew "Pat" Patnesky retires after 58 years of government service. Photo on Page 4.

Space News Roundup

Vol. 36

March 7, 1997

No. 10



JSC Photo S97-02992

RAPT ATTENTION—Students in Ginny Royer's gifted and talented class at Rustic Oak Elementary in the Pearland Independent School District examine a space suit glove intently during National Engineers Week. Cinda Chullen, left, technical manager for the Science, Engineering, Analysis and Test contract for the Engineering Directorate, visited two schools during February's educational outreach effort. A total of 220 JSC volunteers visited 117 different schools in the local area.

Spotlight on women in March

[Editor's note: This is the first of four articles highlighting the accomplishments of women at JSC in observance of National Women's History Month.]

JSC's Federal Women's Program Manager reports the role of women at the center has changed dramatically over the past two decades, and continues to evolve.

"One of the first things I did as the incoming Federal Women's Program Manager here at JSC was to dig, and I mean really dig, through the files of my predecessors," said Jessie Hendrick of the Equal Opportunity Program Office. "I was interested in the program and what had been done before my watch. What I found was very interest-

ing...and included an article from the September 1980 "FWP Network" newsletter on the statistics concerning the women in JSC's workforce."

Statistics have changed dramatically since 1980, she said. The article in 1980 stated that "one of every five JSC employees is female." Today's figures show that one of every three JSC employees is female. The actual figures in 1980 were 719 women employees out of 3,420 permanent full-time employees. Today there are 1,068 women in the workforce of 3,189. Today, as then, women are in every job classification.

In 1980, the professional classification was comprised of engineering support, science and engineering,

life sciences and administration. The 1980 figures show that there were 2,575 professionals of which 205 were female or eight percent. Using the 1980 classification of professional, today there are 2,740 professionals, 741 are female or 27 percent. In 1980, two women had achieved a GS-15 grade, the highest grade for any JSC female employee at the time. Currently, there are 63 women and 370 men who hold the GS-15 grade. The highest grade possible is Senior Executive Service...two women and 63 men have achieved that rank. In addition, there were 13 women supervisor/managers out of approximately 493 in 1980, now there are 52 women out 278.

Please see **STATISTICS**, Page 4

Space Ops seeks private industry plans

By Toni Loftin

JSC's Space Operations Management Office will issue a call Tuesday for proposals to begin consolidating agencywide human and robotic space operations capabilities.

"It's a big, new job for JSC, and is critical to the future of the agency," said John O'Neill, director of the Space Operations Management Office. "Our approach will revolutionize the way NASA does operations. Saving money in routine operations will enable NASA to apply more of its resources to research and, ultimately, exploration."

An initial contract is to be awarded in May to develop an "Integrated Operations Architecture," a preliminary step leading to award in 1998 of a single contract known as CSOC, the Consolidated Space Operations Contract. That contract is expected to be a multi-year agreement for sustaining engineering, operations and maintenance of networks, control center facilities, and other critical systems.

In some cases, the contractor will provide control and monitoring of spacecraft and related functions. The CSOC contract to be awarded later is estimated at \$500-\$600 million a year for 10 years.

"The contractor under CSOC will have more end-to-end responsibility for service products, and will work to our requirements," O'Neill said.

SOMO was created after an agencywide review under O'Neill's direction, looking for efficiencies in similar operations around NASA. The review identified common activities at a number of centers, indicating

potential cost savings through consolidation.

The study was a response to NASA's Zero-Base Review that recommended the agency focus its civil service resources on science, research and development, and move end-to-end operations service responsibility and accountability to industry.

SOMO's function will be much like that of a private sector operations organization, working toward providing high quality operations at a reduced cost, moving civil service resources out of operations and into

research and development, and commercializing whenever possible. Also, as new programs are designed across the agency, SOMO will act as a consultant to advise on the most efficient and cost-effective methods of operation, O'Neill said.

"We're not part of an enterprise or traditional agency process," he said. "We're a service management organization, the first of its kind in the agency."

The new JSC office will coordinate operations including tracking, telemetry, control, data handling, flight operations support and communications. It will provide the environment and services required by the flight program, whether human-piloted or not. Work that is more standardized will be included in the CSOC, while core competency work will stay with the centers.

A first draft of the mission services catalog and additional information about SOMO and CSOC can be found at the website: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/somo>



Texas to provide educational funds for special training

The Texas Legislature has established a Skills Development Fund to help employers increase the skill level of their workforce, and JSC contractors are taking advantage of this fund.

During the last session, Texas legislators established a \$25 million fund that is available to businesses in partnership with local community colleges to develop customized training for employees. The Texas Workforce Commission Business Services

Division works with businesses, labor unions, community organizations and colleges to establish specific projects that increase the skill level of workers.

Two JSC contractors, Barrios Technology and Johnson Engineering, and Space Center Houston have accessed this fund to increase their employees' skill levels.

Barrios teamed up with San Jacinto College and was awarded a grant for computer training. Forty employees will receive

training on a variety of computer programs. Johnson Engineering has developed a training program for employees who operate the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory at the Sonny Carter Training Facility. Classes available to these workers will enhance their capability to operate this state-of-the-art facility with an emphasis on safety. Space Center Houston is in the process of developing a training program for its employees.

The Clear Lake Area Economic Develop-

ment Foundation is working with the Texas Workforce Commission to make these funds available to small-to-medium-sized companies in the Clear Lake area. Companies must have a training plan and pay the occupational wage in their local area. Employers interested in finding out more information about the Skills Development Fund may contact the Foundation at 486-5535 or the Texas Workforce Commission at (512) 463-8844.

Strategic plan all-hands meeting set

Information about strategic planning available on-line

JSC managers next week will discuss key activities around the center and how the projects fit into NASA's Strategic Plan.

Managers from several organizations will talk about the accomplishments, milestones and challenges of their programs and projects at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Teague Auditorium. This forum is to inform employees of key activities under way across the center, and to illustrate how JSC is implementing the NASA and Human Exploration and Development of Space strategic plans.

The panel for this follow-on

meeting to NASA Deputy Administrator Jack Dailey's recent visit will consist of David Short, discussing "Space and Life Sciences Initiatives"; John Muratore, talking about the "X-38 Project"; Lili Moore, examining the "Orbiter Upgrades Study"; Doug Cooke, discussing "Mars Mission Planning"; and Bonnie Dunbar, looking at "Operations Advanced Developments."

A third JSC all-hands meeting on April 9 in Teague Auditorium will feature Tommy Holloway, Frank Culbertson, Randy Brinkley, Don McMonagle, John O'Neill, and David McKay.

Employees who would like more information about the documents Dailey talked about during last month's all-hands meeting may find them on-line.

The Strategic Management Handbook is at: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codez/strahand/frontpg.htm>

The NASA Strategic Plan is at: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/nsps/NSPTOC.html>

The HEDS Enterprise is at: <http://www.osf.hq.nasa.gov/heds/hedsplan.html>

In addition, The National Performance Review and an 800-document library is at: <http://www/npr/gov>



Terry Wilcutt

Wilcutt to lead STS-89 mission

By Eileen Hawley

Astronaut Terry Wilcutt will command the eighth of nine planned missions to dock the space shuttle with the Russian Mir Space Station. STS-89 is targeted for a January 1998 launch on *Discovery*.

Three members of the 1995 astronaut class and a veteran space flyer round out the crew. Joining Wilcutt on the flight deck will be Pilot Joe Edwards. Mission Specialists for the flight are Bonnie Dunbar, Mike Anderson and James Reilly.

Discovery also will carry Mission Please see **ROOKIES**, Page 4